



The Communicator

The Many Layers of Preparedness

-Jim Bottom

As a number of you are aware, **September is National Preparedness Month**. If you read the newspaper, surf the internet, or listen to your favorite media source you will be reminded of what should be your basic preparedness goals. Food, water, flashlight, an all hazards radio, and simple sanitation items all in a minimum 3 day supply for each member of your family are recommended. This September I challenge you to use the phrase *'each member of your family'* to examine how many layers of preparedness you need.

Start with your youngest children. If they are very young you need to add extra items to your disaster supply kit. Think baby food, diapers, ointments, powders or perhaps special laundry soap for those with sensitive skin. Baby bottles, sippy cups, and tiny utensils are all necessary items as well as some way to transport all these extras. The toddler stage may have special considerations with the picky eater who can be satisfied on a normal day but on disaster day may be quite troublesome.

For the next layer let's go to the oldest members of our families. The very old may have needs similar to our infants but on a larger scale with the need for medication thrown in for an extra concern. Walkers, wheelchairs, and personal mobility vehicles are more and more common but may have issues in debris strewn areas. The personal mobility vehicles in particular often require special carriers to move them about due to their size and weight. Leaving home without them may create significant mobility issues for a loved one when you get to a shelter location.

The third layer will be your pets. Most people intend to take their pets with them. Does your disaster kit have provisions for you favorite beast? Dogs require food, collars, leashes, and current vaccinations. The larger the dog the heavier the food and greater the water supply required. Transport of cats usually requires a pet carrier. You will also need to set up a litter box when you get Felix to your shelter location as well as food and water. Exotic birds are extremely sensitive to temperature so preparation for extra heat may be a consideration if this is your pet of choice. These are only a few common pets so give consideration to what it takes to keep a pet alive for up to 2 weeks when planning for their disaster survival.

Daily medical needs are common to all of these layers we have discussed. If you must leave your home make sure you have records of all medicines, vaccinations, and licenses necessary to maintain all layers of your family in a disaster situation. This may seem like a daunting task but there are checklists that are available on Ready.gov to guide you in your planning. Plan for each layer individually and before long you can be confident that you have a rock solid disaster plan with the appropriate supplies.

EMERGENCY

PREPAREDNESS QUIZ

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PREPARE?

Are you prepared for an emergency? Quiz yourself on the questions below to see just how prepared you are. If you don't know the answer to some of the questions, visit Ready.gov or your local Office of Emergency Management for tips and resources that can help make sure you, your family, and your community are *Ready*.

- Does your local government have an emergency or disaster plan for your community? If so, do you know what it is?
- Do you know how to find the emergency broadcasting channel on the radio?
- Does your city/county have an emergency alert system? Is so, are you signed up to get alerts?
- Do you know your local evacuation routes? How would you get out of town from work? How about from home?
- Does your city/county have a Medical Reserve Corps? Contact Sandy Vittitow at 502-572-3466 for further information.
- In the last year, have you prepared or updated your Emergency Supply Kit with emergency supplies like water, food and medicine that is kept in a designated place in your home? Visit Ready.gov for an

Emergency Supply Kit checklist.

- In the last year, have you prepared a small kit with emergency supplies that you keep at home, in your car or where you work to take with you if you had to leave quickly?
- In the last year, have you made a specific plan for how you and your family would communicate in an emergency situation if you were separated?
- Are you prepared to help your neighbor? In most emergencies, the best way to get help quickly is by working with your neighbors. Do you know anyone in your neighborhood who might need a little extra help preparing for or responding to an emergency?
- Have you established a specific meeting place for your family to reunite in the event you and your family cannot return home or are evacuated?
- In the last year, have you practiced or drilled on what to do in an emergency at home?
- In the last year, have you volunteered to help prepare for or respond to a major emergency?
- Have you taken first aid training such as CPR **in the past five years?**



New Home Heating Patterns May Increase Potential for Chimney Fires and Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A Public Service Announcement from your local Emergency Management Agency

With record-setting home heating prices anticipated this autumn and winter, efficiency is at the forefront this year. As many homeowners address their financial concerns by turning to solid fuel appliances, like wood or pellet stoves, the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) sends the reminder that the new heating patterns, including an increase in solid-fuel use, have the potential to increase the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and chimney fires.

According to the most recent statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), chimneys and chimney connectors accounted for the largest share (36 percent) of home heating fire incidents in 2005, with “failure to clean” accounting for two-thirds of those fires.

Responsible operation of heating appliances calls for annual maintenance. Surprisingly few homeowners realize that the chimneys venting their furnaces, water heaters and stoves, as well as the fireplace in the living room, need to be inspected by a qualified professional each year.

The most recent estimates available from the Consumer Product Safety Commission show an average of 25,700 residential structural fires related to fireplaces, chimneys and chimney connectors resulting in 30 deaths and \$627 million in property losses annually.

In addition to encouraging that chimneys and vents be inspected on an annual basis and maintained as needed to reduce the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning due to creosote buildup or obstructions in the chimney, the CSIA also recommends the following winter heating safety tips:

- ◆ Ensure that new appliances are installed with the correct venting components as defined by the manufacturer.
- ◆ Install a carbon monoxide detector on every level of the home.
- ◆ Check smoke alarms. Replace batteries in both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors when clocks are reset for Daylight Savings Time.

For further information on chimney and venting safety, chimney inspections, what to expect when you hire a CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep and to locate a CSIA Certified Chimney Sweep, homeowners are encouraged to visit www.CSIA.org or (800) 536-0118.



WELCOME SONJIA

Hi, my name is Sonya. I began working in NCIC in June. I can truly say the work environment is a lot different than what I am use to and it can be very challenging. Everyone I have met in the office, the hallway, or even the elevator has been very friendly and helpful. In my spare time I like to spend time with family, travel and have a lot of fun.

Club 100

July Members!

Joining is
FREE,

Contact Quality
Assurance for
information on
how you can
JOIN TODAY!

Randi Boren

Sheila Chambers

Taylor Hamilton

Cindy Hedges

Corey Lanham

Heather Lush

Dan Morris

Melissa Nalley

Chad Parnell

Sarah Wallace

LaKeisha Walker

Jerrica Vowels

Sara Torpey

Christal Tobbe

Regina Phillips

Brittany Pearson

COLORADO THEATER SHOOTING: DISPATCHERS RECOUNT NIGHT OF HORROR

-CHUCK MURPHY, DENVER POST

AURORA, Colo. — Listening to the recordings from Friday morning's massacre, you would think dispatcher Kathie Stauffer felt no emotion as she calmly directed resources to the Aurora movie theater where scores were injured and a dozen killed.

Her voice betrayed nothing. Her demeanor was calm. She was unruffled.

On the outside.

Inside, she was roiling as officers pleaded for additional resources — gas masks, more help, ambulances and care for dying 6-year-old Veronica Moser-Sullivan.

"Every call with a kid, I'm thinking of my own," Stauffer, mother of a 9-year-old girl and 15-year-old boy, said Sunday night in an interview with The Denver Post. "That's really what I'm struggling with now — to not think about my own daughter every time.

Thursday night had been even less than routine. Stauffer, working channel 2 of three Aurora dispatch channels, had seen little emergency traffic in the part of the city for which she was responsible.

"My screen was very empty," she said.

All at once, around 12:40 a.m. Friday, it blew up. From across the room, Stauffer could hear call takers responding to wave upon wave of 911 calls for help from the Century Aurora 16 multiplex.

"They're saying somebody is shooting in the auditorium," Stauffer calmly relayed over the radio to officers 315 and 314.

Five feet away, fellow dispatcher Cheri Brungardt had a feeling.

"Something in me said I should start some of mine (officers) that way," said Brungardt, 32. "So I did."

Only a couple minutes passed before the call was out for every officer in Aurora to head to the theater near Aurora Town Center mall. For the next five hours, Stauffer would be responsible for getting assets where they were needed, and Brungardt would be her constant voice of reassurance

and support — and backup in dealing with the fire and rescue dispatchers across an aisle from them in the communications center at Tallyn's Reach.

But getting officers what they wanted was not as easy as it normally is for Stauffer and Brungardt. The scene was so vast, and so devastated, that Aurora did not have enough gear to answer all the calls and other agencies just couldn't get there fast enough.



"Our job is to send help, and the guys we sent to help were calling for help and we couldn't help them," Stauffer, 39, said. "Normally, they get on the radio and the magic dispatcher gets them what they need. This time, they kept calling. They needed help and they couldn't get it."

Stauffer, Brungardt and others in the center are now struggling with a form of survivor's guilt. They wonder if they did all they could. The city brought counselors in Friday night for a debriefing. Both dispatchers now say they feel better, but know it will take time to get over the awful night. Stauffer hasn't yet been back on dispatch duty for the police department, drawing fire duty instead, but she knows the time will come. Soon.

"It's just like anything you're scared of," she said. "You just have to face it and get through it."

Visit the following site to listen to Kathie and the police audio:

<http://www.lawofficer.com/video/news/audio-aurora-theater-shooting>

SUPPORTING HEROES DAY

-DEBBIE FOX

On Saturday, August 11th we took MERV (our communications bus) on a road trip to the Heroes Supporting Heroes Family Safety Fun Festival! The event was held at Ashley Furniture's parking lot located on Blankenbaker, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Attendance was great as was the weather! Lots of folks stopped by to talk to us about 911 and to obtain information on preparing their families for disasters. We gave tours on MERV, explaining our capabilities and what we do as an agency during emergencies. Representatives from all

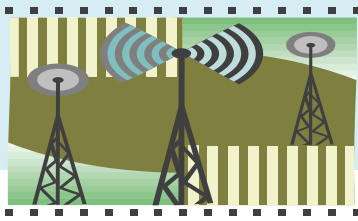
public safety entities were there with their displays – providing valuable information through fun activities and education. This was Supporting Heroes first annual event to showcase local heroes and their organization. Supporting Heroes is a Kentucky non-profit based organization that provides support for families of those civil servants – Fire, Police and EMS – that have fallen in the line of duty.



800 Mhz

Expansion

Planning and preparation is currently in place to expand the 800 Mhz radio system this month. EMA/MetroSafe's expansion includes an additional tower site at Millcreek, bringing our system to a total of 13 sites. Interoperability with our surrounding counties will be extended into parts of Bullitt, Oldham, and Shelby Counties during this expansion.



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SEPTEMBER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Jill Johnson	9/11/89
Kevin Zierer	9/1/98
Chris Allgood	9/10/07
Travis Brown	9/20/04
Deanna Frames	9/20/04
Lisa Kuntz	9/10/07
Jennifer Milburn	9/10/07
Brian Reed	9/10/07
Chris Reeves	9/20/04
David Smallwood	9/27/99
John Tarter	9/11/00
Rex Schardein	9/26/05
Brenda Morton	9/1/91
Rhonnie Sowers	9/10/07
Pam Barnett	9/29/08
Michael Bennett	9/18/94